

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
MASAFUMI SANO ET AL.) : Examiner: E. Wong
Application No.: NYA) : Group Art Unit: 1741
Div. of Application No.: 09/074,699) :
Filed: Concurrently Herewith) :
For: METHOD OF PRODUCING :
ZINC OXIDE THIN FILM)
METHOD OF PRODUCING :
PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICE)
AND METHOD OF :
PRODUCING)
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE : January 16 , 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, after the title, please insert the following paragraph:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a Division of Application No.: 09/074,699, filed May 8,

1999.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 31-45, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

REMARKS

This is a division of Application No.: 09/074,699, filed May 8, 1998. Original non-elected claims 1-30 and 46-57 in the parent application are presented for examination. Claims 31-45 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. The parent application is hereby incorporated by reference. Any changes made to the specification were typographical or clerical in nature or reflect changes made to the parent application approved by the Examiner.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Pursuant to § 609 of the MPEP, copies of the listed documents have not been provided. However, Applicants will provide copies upon request.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents may be found in the Specification as follows:

“Optical Confinement Effect in a-SiGe Solar Cell on Stainless Substrate” on page 2, paragraph 3 - page 3, paragraph 5”;

JP-60-84888 on page 3, lines 23 - page 4, line 2;

JP-8-217443 describes an electrolyte reaction to form semi-conductive zinc oxide coating film of uniform thickness and transparency by mixing zinc ions and nitrate ions.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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